

Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center



6685 Coolidge Highway
Troy, MI 48098-1943
248.524.3567



Nature Center Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday-Saturday	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Sunday	12 noon - 5 pm

Holiday Closures:

Thanksgiving Day - Nov 27
Christmas - December 24, 25
New Years Eve - December 31
New Years Day - January 1

The Stage Nature Center (SNC) is a 100-acre facility operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. Admission is free! In addition to our scheduled programs, the interpretive center and trails are open during posted hours. Come and enjoy our new exhibits and Children's Nature Area.

Let the Stage Nature Center be your gateway to the natural world! There are more than two miles of nature trails for you to enjoy, winding through meadows, forest, and stream. These trails are for **walking only**, please leave bikes in the bike rack near the parking lot. Jogging, pets, and collecting are not allowed.

"Our mission is to create passion for, and knowledge of, the natural world in the hearts and minds of our citizens, which will lead to increased understanding, and stewardship of our natural environment."

Icon Key



The Envelope icon represents classes that are available for mail-in, drop-off, or walk-in registration only. **They are not available for on-line registration.**



The Early Bird icon indicates programs that were first offered in the previous bulletin issue and are available for immediate registration by walk-in, mail-in, or online methods. Do not use the registration drop box at the Community Center.

Mistletoe 'n' Moonlight at Cattail Cove Nature Shop

Tuesday, November 18

5-9 pm

For more information,
call the Stage Nature Center at 248.524.3567.



Deer Santa

We all know Santa's reindeer (on Dasher, and Dancer...) are very famous and help him every year, but do you know about the deer that live in Troy? Come out and discover all about our local deer on our special "Reindeer Trail" outside at the Stage Nature Center. See if you can run as fast, jump as high, or walk like a deer. Find out how you compare to a deer in height, what deer eat, and why those antlers fall off every year!

Inside, join Santa Claus as he tells a few tales about his reindeer and life at the North Pole. Everyone will get a chance to talk with Santa personally, and receive a small gift from him as well. Parents and grandparents are welcome to bring their own cameras and take pictures of their little ones with the jolly old elf.

Children will also enjoy some cookies and juice, and make a seasonal craft. Please dress for the weather as part of this program occurs outside. Each child participating in the program must be registered. Parents and/or grandparents are free and need to remain with the child. **Minimum registration numbers are required by November 29.**

Location: Stage Nature Center **Fee:** \$11

Activity	Ages	Day	Time	Date
347042A	3-8	Sat	9-11 am	Dec 6
347042B	3-8	Sat	1-3 pm	Dec 6



Holiday Break Nature Hike

Time to work off those extra holiday calories with a good stretch of the legs on a hike through our woods and fields. It's also a great time to escape from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We'll meet in the nature center building and then head out for a hike in search of critters large and small, and do a little snow snooping if possible. Don't forget to bring along your binoculars or borrow some of ours for a better view of the sights along the way.

Remember to dress warmly as we will be outside for much of the time. This hike will take place snow, rain, or shine. This is a family program. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Each person participating must enroll and pay the fee. **Minimum registration numbers are required by December 20.**

Location: Stage Nature Center **Fee:** \$3

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
347838A	3-adult	Sat	9:30-11 am	Dec 27

Yoga, Naturally

Instructor Janice Bahura will train you in the proper techniques and basics of Hatha Yoga, emphasizing plant and animal postures found in nature. This series of ten classes is great for the beginner or continuing student. Previous yoga experience is not required. Wear loose comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat, and a towel. Yoga blocks or straps are optional. At the instructor's discretion some classes may be held outside.

Participants must be registered prior to class time. Minimum registration numbers are required by December 9.

Location: Stage Nature Center **Fee:** \$99

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
317329A	12-Adult	Sun	1-2 pm	Dec 14-Feb 15

Snowmen at Stage

Parent & Child Activity

Join us with your child as we explore winter time at the Stage Nature Center. We will read a snowman story, have a snowman craft, do winter activities and even make a snowman outside! Each child will receive a snowman kit to take home that includes a top hat, a carrot nose, along with eye and mouth parts too!

Program will run with or without snow.

This program is for ages 3-8 and their parent/grandparent. **The adult partner is free and must accompany the child throughout the program.** Dress for winter weather! **Minimum registration numbers are required by January 11.**

Location: Stage Nature Center **Fee:** \$9

Activity	Ages	Day	Time	Date
317262A	3-8	Sun	3-4:30 pm	Jan 18

Little Acorns

Come grow with us in nature. Explore the sights, smells, and sounds of winter with a young child. Children will experience nature with their senses through various activities in the out-of-doors. This program will take place completely outside, except in the event of extreme inclement weather. Bring children in backpacks, strollers with large wheels, sturdy enough for a wood chipped trail or sleds for snow. This program is designed for children age 1-4 and their adult parent/caregiver. **The adult partner is free and must accompany the child throughout the program.** **Minimum registration numbers are required by January 22.**

Location: Stage Nature Center **Fee:** \$4

Activity	Ages	Day	Time	Date
317051A	1-3	Thu	10-11am	Jan 29
317051B	3-4	Thu	1-2 pm	Jan 29

Scout It Out



Bears, Brownies and Junior Scouts can complete their nature-related badge or try-its here at the Stage Nature Center during these special two-hour programs. All items necessary to fulfill the requirements for the particular badge or try-it are covered. Scouts receive a certificate of completion at the end of each program. Sorry we do not furnish the badge or try-it itself.

Registration is now available for all of these programs for individual scouts, dens, or troops. Dress for the weather, scouts will be outside for part of the program rain or shine. Leaders need to remain with their groups. Individual scouts, not accompanied by a scout leader, must have adult supervision. Adults and scout leaders are admitted free. **Sorry, there are no refunds or transfers for these programs.**

Location: Stage Nature Center

Fee: \$7

Bears - #5 - Sharing Your World With Wildlife
Minimum registration numbers required by January 24 .

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
317204A	Bear Cubs	Sat	9-11 am	Jan 31
317204B	Bear Cubs	Sat	12-2 pm	Jan 31

Juniors - Wildlife

Minimum registration numbers required by April 18.

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
327207A	Juniors	Sat	9-11 am	Apr 25
327207B	Juniors	Sat	12-2 pm	Apr 25

Brownies - Water Everywhere

Minimum registration numbers required by May 23.

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
327216A	Brownies	Sat	9-11 am	May 30
327216B	Brownies	Sat	12-2 pm	May 30

Nature Center O.W.L.S

For Older Wiser Livelier Seniors!

You should belong to the Nature Center O.W.L.S. if you are an older, wiser, livelier senior! This program is offered seasonally throughout the year. Come and encounter winter at the Nature Center. We will experience the sights and sounds of the winter season with a brief talk indoors. We will learn how plants and animals cope with winter. Outside on the trails we will walk into a winter wonderland with a naturalist, or you can choose to stay indoors where it is warm and cozy to watch for wildlife in our observation area. **Minimum registration numbers are required by January 30.**

Location: Stage Nature Center

Fee: \$3

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
317210A	Adult	Thu	10-11:30 am	Feb 5

Winter Scavenger Hunt

Pick up a Scavenger Hunt at the front desk of the Nature Center and return completed for a prize! Designed for ages 3-adult, this will surely add some fun to your hike. Available during regular business hours for \$2 each.

Visit the SNC for more details!

Nature Escape

Take a night off and send your kids to our Nature Escape! We will enjoy our sack dinner over nature entertainment and then steer our focus into the snowy creatures of Michigan. The kids will get to touch animal furs and bones, and see mounts as we discuss animals in the wintertime. They will make puppets and masks, leading on to the snowflake games throughout the night. Don't forget to bundle up for our night hike, where the kids will get to search for signs of animal activity!

Each child needs to bring a sack dinner; refreshments are included. Sign-up early; this program fills fast! **Minimum registration numbers are required by January 30.**

Location: Stage Nature Center

Fee: \$15

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
317010A	4-5	Fri	6-9 pm	Feb 6
317010B	6-8	Fri	6-9 pm	Feb 6



Unearth the Earth

Discover the rocks and fossils beneath your feet! We will explore Michigan geology including our state fossil, the mastodon and state rock, the petoskey stone.

Children will be able to get a hands-on feel for the common and unique rocks, fossils, and minerals that make up the very ground we walk on! Kids will make and paint their very own fossil to take home, erupt a volcano and also explore our new American Mastodon Discovery Dig Site! **Minimum registration numbers are required by February 11.**

Location: Stage Nature Center

Fee: \$12

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
317140A	8-12	Wed	10 am-noon	Feb 18



Visit the SNC to see our newest exhibit! The American Mastodon Discovery Dig consists of life-size Mastodon replica bones, including a "crawl-through" rib cage, and several embedded fossils. Many large brushes are available for digging, exploration, and discovery!

12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count and February - National Bird Feeding Month

On February 13th-16th join thousands of people throughout the U.S. and Canada counting birds from their backyards, local parks and nature centers. Your list, short or long, will help scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology understand more about the distribution and abundance of birds. Get more information at www.birdcount.org or stop by the Stage Nature Center. Start feeding the birds in your backyard by purchasing a new birdfeeder from Cattail Cove Gift Shop at the nature center. Bird feeding is a great way to start the day, brighten up a gloomy winter, and relieve stress, while helping wild birds get through their toughest time of the year.



Great Backyard Bird Count Workshop on Bluebirds

Have you ever wondered about those little birdhouses you see out in the fields and what birds nest in them? Come and learn about bluebirds, also called the harbingers of spring, who live in those birdhouses. We will discuss how to attract bluebirds to your yard, proper birdhouse placement, along with monitoring techniques. This program will get you ready as bluebirds will start to arrive back in Michigan in March. Included is a walk outside and time at our wildlife observation area in order to develop or enhance your bird identification skills. **Minimum registration numbers are required by February 7.**

Location: Stage Nature Center

Fee: \$3

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
317324A	12-Adult	Sat	9:30-11 am	Feb 14

Build a Box for the Birds

Parent & Child Activity

Boys and girls bring an adult partner and together you will build your own bird nesting box! Find out neat stuff about birds that nest in tree cavities at the Stage Nature Center and how to attract them to your yard this spring. A short winter bird hike will be included to observe some of our feathered friends. Each child will take home the nesting box they built during the program.

An adult partner must accompany each child and remain to help during the program. The adult partner is free. Please dress appropriately for the weather. **Minimum registration numbers are required by February 4.**

Location: Stage Nature Center

Fee: \$14

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Date
317036A	7-12	Sun	3-5 pm	Feb 15

Visit Cattail Cove Nature Shop during National Bird Feeding Month

There will be a special sale on bird-related items during the month of February including: bird baths, houses, feeders, books, and suet cakes. We now carry the Indentiflyer™ system, an electronic machine that helps you identify birds by their song. We also feature Droll Yankee® items, “The World’s Best Bird Feeders” with a lifetime warranty on all their products. Stop in to see our selection.



We now accept VISA and MasterCard!

We are very Proud of

our programs and staff at the nature center. Here’s what patrons attending Stage Nature Center programs are saying:

- “This center is beautiful!”
- “Great center – love the trails and helpful personnel.”
- “Well organized! Excellent with kids and their questions.”
- “I love this place!”
- “We brought our grandchildren and they loved the whole setting. A wonderful place!! Thank you.”
- “This was a very educational program.”
- “Terrific instructor, wonderful with kids.”
- “Great program! Staff was wonderful with the children. Super value for the money.”
- “Wonderful staff, great program! Looking forward to future events.”
- “Awesome program for preschool. Great presenter – very good with children.”
- “We loved this program! We would recommend to everyone.”
- “Your exhibits are beautiful and outstanding.”
- “The addition to the lobby is wonderful! It is very welcoming to children and educational. Thank you for a great job.”

Thank you for your support!

Naturalist Backpack Rental

Rent a naturalist’s backpack anytime, it is equipped with lots of exploring equipment to make your hike along our trails an interactive experience for your whole family. Cost is \$10 for two hours.

Stop at the SNC front desk during regular business hours for details!

Kids: Celebrate Your Birthday

...at the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center! Our birthday parties are a special way to celebrate your youngster’s special day.

These two-hour parties include a naturalist-led talk, live animal demo, nature activity, hike, decorations, invitations, and a gift for each party participant.

Children ages 4-7 can choose from:

- Making Sense of Nature
- Furs, Feathers and Fins

Children ages 8-12 can choose from:

- Secrets of the Forest
- The Rap on Raptors (Birds of Prey)
- Wildlife Trackers

Cost is \$120 for up to 12 children, with \$10 for each additional child up to a maximum of 18.

**Call us at 248.524.3567 for more details
or to book your party!**

Junior Naturalist Club

There are still some openings in our popular year-long Junior Naturalist Club for ages 4 through 5th grade. It is held on the second or third Saturday each month between September and July. Activities include: crafts, hikes outside, hands-on activities and more! It is already underway, but it is not too late to join. Great natural fun for your child!

Call SNC at 248.524.3567 for more details!





Maple Syrup Time

You'll know winter is coming to an end when you hear maple sap dripping into buckets at the Stage Nature Center. Each year, warming days and freezing nights in March start the flow of sap in the trees.

Our program starts with a short introduction to maple syruping indoors, then we'll hike the trails to see how sap is collected. Afterwards, we'll stop in the sugar shed and see the wood-stoked sap evaporator in action. The tour finishes with syrup tasting over warm mini-pancakes!

Check out Cattail Cove, our nature shop, after the tour. All proceeds help to support the Stage Nature Center and its educational programs.

Please note: March 7 and March 14 are for individual and family sign ups only, no scout groups please. March 21 is for scout groups and their leaders only.

Register by calling the SNC at 248.524.3567. Programs start every half hour between 9 am and 3:30 pm. Walk-ins are welcome on the day of the program on a space available basis only. **Fees are paid at the door.**

Location: Stage Nature Center **Fee:** \$4 at the door

Age	Day	Time	Date
4-Adult	Sat	9 am - 3:30 pm	Mar 7
4-Adult	Sat	9 am - 3:30 pm	Mar 14
Scouts	Sat	9 am - 3:30 pm	Mar 21



Maple Syrup Rent-A-Tap Program

We are offering you a unique opportunity to join in the syrup season and help support the Stage Nature Center by renting a maple tap in the SNC's sugar bush.

Our Rent-A-Tap packages will be boxed, attractively wrapped, and available for pick up at the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center starting on March 7, 2009. For an additional cost Rent-A-Tap can now be shipped throughout the United States (see form for rates). For Alaska and Hawaii shipping rates, call SNC for details.

For only \$34.95 we will stuff your maple syrup box chock full of the following goodies:

- One pint of pure maple syrup
- 9 pieces of maple sugar candy
- Spile used to tap the maple tree
- A "lease certificate"
- SNC's Sugar Bush News
- Plus several other bonus items

If you are renting a tap for your class, scout group, or large family, consider supersizing it for an additional \$10 (\$44.95 total) and you will receive everything listed for the regular Rent-A-Tap, plus:

- An additional pint of maple syrup
- An additional 6 pieces of maple sugar candy

Both Rent-A-Tap sizes include a reservation for the Maple Syrup Time tour for up to 4 people free (a \$16 value!) Tours last approximately 1.5 hours. Leases must be received by 1/9/09.

Join in the syrup season this year and help support the Stage Nature Center by renting a maple tap in the SNC's sugar bush!

Maple Rent-A-Tap Form

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (10 digit): _____

Please check here if this is a gift: _____

We'll send you an official SNC Rent-A-Tap gift certificate.

Gift Recipient's Name: _____

Maple Syrup Time reservation for (4 person max.):

Name: _____ # in Group: _____

Please circle the appropriate date for your group:

Individuals and Families: March 7 or March 14, 2009

Scout Groups: March 21, 2009

Choose a time for your tour (all times apply to all dates):

9 am	()	9:30 am	()
10 am	()	10:30 am	()
11 am	()	11:30 am	()
12 pm	()	12:30 pm	()
1 pm	()	1:30 pm	()
2 pm	()	2:30 pm	()
3 pm	()	3:30 pm	()

Space is guaranteed if reservations are made prior to 1/9/09.

_____ Regular Rent-A-Tap @ \$34.95 = _____

_____ Supersize Rent-A-Tap @ \$44.95 = _____

If you would like your R-A-T shipped (excludes insurance)

_____ Regular Rent-A-Tap shipping \$12.00 = _____

_____ Supersize Rent-A-Tap shipping \$15.00 = _____

Ship To Address: _____

Please make checks payable to the **City of Troy - SNC**. Send completed order form and check (*do not send cash!*) to:

**Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center
6685 Coolidge Highway
Troy, Michigan 48098-1943**